IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~for a communication device to manage resources available to remote user terminals in a communication system, the method~~ comprising:

a communication device establishing a wireless communication session with a remote user terminal, the wireless communication session having associated therewith a **first** session time limit;

the communication device detecting a session renewal; and

the communication device altering the **first** session time limit in response to detecting the session renewal.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the session renewal is caused by a priority status associated with the remote user terminal.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the communication ~~receives~~ <u>device detecting a session renewal further comprises the communication device receiving</u> an indication of the priority status from the remote user terminal.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the session renewal is caused by the communication device detecting active data exchange between the remote user terminal and the ~~base station~~ <u>communication device</u> prior to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> lapse of the session time limit.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~first and second~~ <u>communication device altering the session time limit comprises the communication device extending the</u> session time ~~limits are~~ <u>limit by a time</u> equal in duration <u>to the original duration of the session time limit</u>.

6.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>communication</u> <u>device detecting the session renewal comprises the communication device receiving a</u> session renewal ~~is received by the communication device~~ from the remote user terminal.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the session renewal is generated by the communication device.

8.   (**Currently Amended**) In a communication system, a method comprising:

a communication device providing a session to a remote user terminal, the session having associated therewith a first session time limit;

~~upon lapse of the first session time limit,~~ the communication device determining whether a session renewal has been generated; and

<u>upon lapse of the first session time limit,</u> the communication device, if having determined that a session renewal has been generated, renewing the session for a second session time limit, and if having determined that a session renewal has not been generated, terminating the session.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the session renewal is caused by a priority status associated with the remote user terminal.

10.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication ~~receives~~ <u>device determining whether a session renewal has been generated further</u> <u>comprises the communication device receiving</u> an indication of the priority status from the remote user terminal.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the session renewal is caused by the communication device detecting active data exchange between the remote user terminal and a data network coupled to the communication device upon lapse of the session time limit.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the first and second session time limits are equal in duration.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the session renewal is received by the communication device from the remote user terminal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the session renewal is generated by the communication device.

15. (Original) An apparatus for managing communication channels in a wireless communication system, the apparatus comprising:

   a session lifespan means for providing a time limit to a communication session with an

      external device, the communication session characterized by an ability of the external

      device to have access to wireless communication channels for exchanging data; and

   a session management means for altering the time limit in response to a predetermined

      condition.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the session lifespan means includes a timing mechanism to indicate lapse of the time limit.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the session management means is coupled to the timing mechanism, **and wherein the session management means altering the time limit in response to the predetermined condition comprises the session management means indicating to the timing mechanism** to delay or extend the time limit in response to the predetermined condition.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the **session management means for altering the time limit in response to the** predetermined condition

further includes ~~detection of at least a first~~ **the session management means detecting at least one** channel utilized by the external entity for data exchange.

19. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the **session management means for altering the time limit in response to the** predetermined condition **further** includes ~~detection of~~ **the session management means detecting** network congestion.

20. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein network congestion is characterized at least in part by a number of sessions ~~in progress~~ **open**.

21. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein network congestion is characterized at least in part by a number of channels that are active.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the predetermined condition is caused by a message received from the external entity.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the predetermined condition is caused by an event generated by the session management means.

24. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the time limit is determined ~~by~~ **based at least in part on** a quality-of-service parameter of the external entity.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for exchanging data with said external entity and an external data network.